

## SOVIET TROOPS ENTER CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR PACT EXERCISE

The Czechoslovak Government is still trying to play down the size and significance of Soviet participation in the current, widely publicized and hastily scheduled Warsaw Pact exercise.

Some Soviet combat troops, armor, and tactical aircraft moved into Czechoslovakia during the week to take part. Prague claims that the combat forces will be used only in small numbers as "marker" units--that is, to represent larger, probably division-level formations. Nevertheless, the Soviet military presence will serve as a reminder to the Czechoslovak populace of the facts of Soviet military power and the binding nature of Czechoslovakia's ties with the Warsaw Pact.

Early in the week, Prague announced that a Soviet tank unit had taken up a position in the

western part of the country. Another Prague announcement stated that motorized rifle units also had moved into Czechoslovakia, but this statement failed to give the nationality of these units, which are presumed to be Soviet.

Prague has been releasing daily announcements that are intended to counter any popular interpretation of the military moves as a Soviet attempt to interfere in Czechoslovak affairs. Czechoslovak officials have stated that all foreign troops will leave the country at the conclusion of the exercise, which is expected to be no later than 30 June. In view of the fact that Soviet participation in the exercise is apparently more extensive than Prague had initially let on, the official statements are unlikely to eliminate all doubts and fears among the populace.

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